

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 AF-08
ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 /072 W
-----180226Z 098378 /20
P R 172056Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0747
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UNESCO
SUBJECT: UNESCO: GENEVA GROUP MEETING

REF: (A) PARIS 6755 (B) PAIS 27997 (C) PARIS 27508
(D) PARIS 26582

1. GENEVA GROUP (GG) MET ON MARCH 16 TO DISCUSS PRINCIPLE OF FORMULATING CREDIBLE "INDICATIVE TARGET FIGURES" (ITF). US PERM REP WAS IN THE CHAIR. MEMBERS ALSO CONSIDERED PROPOSAL OF CANADIAN AMBASSADOR, YVON BEAULNE, THAT GG SHOULD COORDINATE RESPONSES TO SECRETARIAT'S BUDGET QUESTIONNAIRE AS MEANS FOR INFLUENCING BOTH PROGRAM CONTENT AND LEVEL OF BUDGET. QUESTIONNAIRE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN AVAILABLE MARCH 1, BUT LATEST INFORMATION SUGGESTS POSTPONEMENT UNTIL AT LEAST MARCH 21.

2. MEETING PRODUCED NO DISAGREEMENT TO ACCEPTING PRINCIPLE OF ITF, BUT NEITHER WAS ENTHUSIASM ESPECIALLY EVIDENT. DISCUSSION DID UNCOVER SEVERAL
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PROBLEM AREAS WHICH WILL NEED TO BE
CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

3. US PERM DEL OPENED MEETING WITH REVIEW OF BACKGROUND AND FORMULATION OF ITF CONCEPT, AND PRESENT STATUS OF PROCEEDINGS IN ILO AND WHO. HE TOLD GG MEMBERS THAT MEETING HAD BEEN CONVENED TO ASSESS

APPLICABILITY OF ITF CONCEPT TO UNESCO, AND IF IT IS FOUND TO BE FEASIBLE, TO DEVISE A MEANS TO FORMULATE A FIGURE, AS WELL AS A STRATEGY TO SEE IT IMPLEMENTED.

4. SWEDISH DEL (AN OBSERVER) POINTED OUT THAT IN A SENSE UNESCO HAS ALREADY ADOPTED AN ITF BY ACCEPTING (EITHER BY APPROVAL OR ACQUIESCENCE OF MEMBER STATES -- THE US ABSTAINED --) AN AVERAGE RATE OF 6 PER CENT FOR REAL PROGRAM GROWTH OVER MEDIUM TERM PLAN (19C/4, MEDIUM TERM PLAN, 1977-1982). THEREFORE, GOING TO SECRETARIAT NOW AFTER MOST GG MEMBERS HAD ALREADY APPROVED 19C/4, WHICH ALSO SERVES AS PRINCIPAL PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM BUDGET, COULD PROVE AN EMBARRASSMENT, AS BOTH UK AND AUSTRALIAN DELS QUICK TO POINT OUT.

5. FURTHERMORE, AUSTRALIAN DEL REASONED, EACH BIENNIUM BUDGETARY "GAME" PROCEEDS WITH CLEARLY DEFINED RULES WHICH HAVE EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS, AND THE RULES OF THE GAME, THEMSELVES, MUST BE CHANGED IN ORDER TO AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE GAME.

6. SWEDISH DEL INTRODUCED YET ANOTHER THEME, SAYING THAT IT WAS HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT WHAT REALLY MATTERS IS THE CONTENT AND RESULTS OF UNESCO'S PROGRAM, AND ASKED IF OTHER GOVERNMENTS COULD NOT ACCEPT HIGHER BUDGETARY LEVELS, IF THE PROJECTS WERE REALLY GOOD. NETHERLANDS REP INDICATED THAT HIS GOVT WENT ALONG WITH THIS LINE OF REASONING.
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SWITZERLAND'S AMBASSADOR HUMMEL FOLLOWED THIS, COMMENTING THAT PRINCIPLE (IF NOT PRACTICE) OBSERVED AROUND WORLD IS THAT RICH PAY MORE TAXES THAN POOR, AND THAT AN ACCEPTABLE BUDGETARY LEVEL SHOULD BE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS AND NOT PRECONCEIVED ARBITRARY FIGURE WHICH AN ITF MIGHT SEEM TO BE. FRG REP COUNTERED THAT EXERCISE OF ESTABLISHING AN ITF IS NOT ARBITRARY, BUT GIVES A FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND EMBODIES THE IDEA OF TRYING TO ESTABLISH SOME CONTROLS AND LIMITS ON BUDGETARY GROWTH.

7. JAPANESE PERM REP HIRAOKA SUGGESTED THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW'S STATED VIEW THAT RICH COUNTRIES HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO SHOULDER INCREASING BURDEN OF THIRD WORLD DEVELOPMENT WILL MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT TO APPROACH SECRETARIAT ON THIS MATTER. ANOTHER IDEA OCCURRED TO HIM, HOWEVER, AS HE REFLECTED ON CANADIAN AMBASSADOR BEAUNE'S OBSERVATION THAT UNESCO IS

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10
CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 /072 W
-----180225Z 090918 /20

P R 172056Z MAR 77
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BECOMING MORE A CHARITABLE, ASSISTANCE CENTERED
ORGANIZATION THAN ONE PROMOTING STIMULATING INTER-
CHANGE IN FIELDS OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SCIENCE.
HIRAOKA POINTED OUT THAT FOR ALL NATIONS, BILATERAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WERE ALWAYS NEGOTIATED, AND
ACCORDINGLY BELIEVED THAT THE GG MIGHT
LOGICALLY ENGAGE IN A SIMILAR PROCESS FOR ARRIVING AT
ACCEPTABLE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR UNESCO'S BUDGET.

8. SEVERAL OF THESE POINTS FED INTO CANADIAN AMBAS-
SADOR BEAULNE'S VIEWS PRESENTED EARLIER IN THE MEETING.
HE HAD BROUGHT TO MEMBER'S ATTENTION THAT GG ATTEMPTS
LAST FALL (REFTELS B,C, AND D) TO INFLUENCE BUDGET
LEVELS TWO YEARS AFTER ITS PREPARATION HAD ONLY PRO-
DUCED "STERILE AGITATION". HE NOTED THAT THE
SECRETARIAT'S BUDGET QUESTIONNAIRE RELATED TO SPECIFIC
PROGRAMS WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON, AND THAT A
COORDINATED GG RESPONSE TO THIS QUESTIONNAIRE MIGHT
PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH BEST OPPORTUNITY TO AFFECT BOTH
THE ALLOCATION AND LEVEL OF EXPENDITURES. BEAULNE
ALSO POINTED OUT THAT RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT BOTH THE
17TH AND 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCES (36.1 AND 41.1
RESPECTIVELY) PROVIDED POSSIBILITIES TO MEMBER STATES

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FOR AFFECTING BUDGET PROCESSES AND LEVELS MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN UP TO NOW HAS BEEN UTILIZED. HE SUGGESTED THAT THESE PROVISIONS BE MADE THE BASIS FOR GG'S COLLECTIVE ACTION.

9. US PERM REP THANKED MEMBERS FOR CANDID EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, AND ASKED CANADIAN AMBASSADOR BEAULNE, AUSTRALIA'S DAVIES, AND SWISS AMBASSADOR HUMMEL TO PREPARE A DRAFT PAPER ADDRESSING THESE THEMES IN RELATION TO EXERCISE ARRIVING AT A CREDIBLE ITF. THIS DRAFT WILL ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT UNESCO'S INTERNAL BUDGETARY PROCESSES FOR INFLATION AND RECASTING ADJUSTMENTS, CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS AND THE CONCEPT OF REAL PROGRAM GROWTH IN RELATION TO TOTAL BUDGETARY CEILING.

10. SUMMARIZING DAY'S PROCEEDINGS, PERM REP STATED THAT CONSENSUS SEEMED TO BE THAT GG HAD ACCEPTED IDEA OF WORKING TOWARD ITF, AND URGED THAT TACTICS NOW BE WORKED OUT FOR APPROACHING SECRETARIAT AT LEVEL OF ADG FOR ADMINISTRATION. CHAIRMAN SAID A SPECIAL EFFORT MUST ALSO BE MADE TO COORDINATE GG RESPONSES TO SECRETARIAT BUDGET QUESTIONNAIRE DURING NEXT MEETING, OR AS SOON AFTERWARD AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. RESPONSES WILL NEED TO BE FORWARDED BY JUNE.

11. GG MEMBERS WILL MEET AGAIN ON MARCH 23 TO CONTINUE ACTION ON THESE TOPICS, AND TO ATTEMPT TO WORK RESULTS OF WORKING GROUP INTO PAPER WHICH WILL BE SUITABLE FOR PRESENTATION AT MARCH 29-30 GG/C. WILL FURTHER CONSIDER PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTING ITF WITH VIEW TO PRODUCING ACTION BY JUNE 15.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS07963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770092-0717
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PARIS 6755, 77 PARIS 27508, 77 PARIS 26582
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3076793
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO: GENEVA GROUP MEETING
TAGS: AORG, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2e127db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009